



# Tech Transfer

**NTIA Institute for Telecommunication Sciences**

## Highlights

- FTTA of 1986 Allows Federal Laboratories to Enter into Cooperative Research Agreements
- Agreements Protect Intellectual Property Rights
- ITS Has a Long History of Cooperation with Industry
- ITS is Actively Engaged in Research Involving Emerging Technologies

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## Federal Technology Transfer

The Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 (FTTA) allows Federal laboratories to enter into cooperative research agreements with private industry, universities, and other interested parties. This Act provides labs with clear legal authority to enter into these arrangements and thus encourage technology transfer from Federal labs to the private sector. Under this Act, a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) can be implemented that protects proprietary information, grants patent rights, and provides for user licenses to corporations, while allowing Government expertise and facilities to be applied to interests in the private sector.

## Technology Transfer at ITS

ITS has a long history of radio-wave research and propagation prediction development that provides a substantial knowledge base for the development of state-of-the-art telecommunication systems. In order to transfer this knowledge base to private industry, ITS is actively engaged in technology transfer and commercialization efforts through cooperative research with industry, where benefits can directly facilitate U.S. competitiveness and market opportunities. ITS has participated for a number of years in CRADAs with the private sector to design, develop, test, and evaluate advanced telecommunication concepts.

## Emerging Technology Activities

Because of the great commercial importance of many new emerging telecommunication technologies including PCS, wireless local area networks, video and audio quality for digital broadcasting, LMDS, the national information infrastructure, and intelligent transportation systems, ITS plans to vigorously pursue technology transfer to the private sector through CRADAs and thereby contribute to the rapid commercialization of these new technologies.